

Chetan Bhagat's Review on Feminism

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Abstract – Chetan Bhagat tries to portrait the old traditions of the society. He speaks about the mindsets of the people, discriminations between woman and man. Woman's having their own goals in their life. His writing holds no restraints and so are the characters of the novels. The main objective of his writing is to appreciate the liberty, rights, and views of women.

Keywords: Woman, Discrimination, Feminist, Empowerment, Evaluation, Assessment.

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1. ABOUT AUTHOR

Chetan Bhagat is one of the most popular novelists from Indian literature with a versatile personality. He is an author, public speaker, essayist and a screenplay writer. His most renowned works include his fiction and one non-fiction that are Five Point Someone, The 3 Mistakes of My Life, One Indian Girl, Revolution 2020, 2 States and What Young India Wants. In most of his work he talks about the problem of Indian society and hopes of youth regarding the change in mindsets of Indian people.

Chetan Bhagat was born on 22nd of April, 1974, in Delhi, India. He belongs to a traditional Punjabi family. His father served as lieutenant colonel in the Indian Army while his mother worked as a government employee. He completed his schooling in Army Public School and went to Indian institute of Technology, Delhi for Engineering. Afterwards, he went to Indian Institute Of Management, Ahmedabad for his Post-Graduation in Management. In 1998, he married to his colleague, Anusha Suryanarayanan. After completing his graduation he moved to Hong Kong and worked as an investment banker in Goldman Sachs for eleven years. After his return to India, he started to work on his passion and switched his career to be a writer.

One Indian Girl- is a book about the an independent Indian girl who believes in feminism, who does not care about what society thinks of her as she dares to speak anything that she has done in her life. The novel goes through the life of Radhika who chases her dream independently. She is not like other Indian girls who follow all the rules and regulation of the Indian society. She holds her own opinion about anything and does not believe in the rituals of the typical Indian society.

2. SUMMARY OF ONE INDIAN GIRL

The story in the book revolves around its main character Radhika. Radhika works in New York. She had a boyfriend Debu and was in live in relationship. But Debu refuses to get married to her as he believes that Radhika is a career minded woman and she can't be a housewife. Being fed up, she decides to boycott New York from her life and move to Hong Kong. In her new office she meets Neel Gupta his boss's boss, and strike a deal at Philippines. During her trips in Philippines, she gets attracted towards Neel and had an affair with him. After a year of being in a relationship Radhika finds it difficult to have a future with Neel. As Neel is 20 years older than him and a married man with two children. Radhika opts for resign but Neel refuses that stating leave him but not the organization. Thus, after breaking up with Neel radhika moves to Goldman Sachs London.

Radhika starts her life with a new beginning in London, but her mother as always, starts forcing her to get married. Radhika finally agrees and start looking for groom on Shadi.com. She meets Brijesh Gulati and decides to tie a knot with him. After getting the news about Radhika's marriage Debu and Neel realize there mistake and propose a plan to stop Radhika's marriage. Radhika gets confused between two ex-boyfriends and one future husband. She calls all of them in the morning and turns down there proposal. Later, she asks Brijesh to call off the wedding. Radhika makes an apology to everyone and take a year off from everything and goes on her way to travel, to discover what she truly wants. Few months later, she contacts Brijesh to meet her for coffee. They reconnect again in San

Francisco, where they make plans for a concert while Radhika helps Brijesh for his startup company.

3. EVALUATION OF WOMEN'S PROBLEM AND ASSESSMENT OF FEMALE RELATIONSHIP IN THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT

Chetan Bhagat describes human relationship from political, social and economic point of view. He represents all the flaws of society by writing it in such a way that he has gained a huge fan following through his art of work. He is an inspiration to the youth of our nation. He writes about the problems of the youth and guides them to how they can balance in every situation of life. His novel *One Indian Girl* is based on the new modern era of women, where women hold equality. Chetan Bhagat has tried to talk about all of women issues like corrosion of women's achievement, independent women being forced to choose between career and home.

The back cover of the book has the following extract:

Hi, I am Radhika Mehta and I am getting married this week.

"I work at Goldman Sachs, an investment bank.

Thank you for reading my story.

However, let me warn you. You may not like me too much.

One, I make a lot of money.

Two, I have an opinion on everything.

Three, I have had a boyfriend before. Okay, maybe two.

Now if I was a guy, you would be okay with all of this. But since I am a girl, these three things don't really make me too likeable, do they?"

The character of Radhika is very bold. She is never afraid to reveal the secrets of her life. She thinks that people may not like her because she earns more money than average boys can earn, she has her own opinion about everything and she performs better than boys in any competition. She thinks that a girl having such qualities like boys is not likeable in our society. The novel arises the same question to the readers of being likeable on the part of the main character.

As per Radhika's professional life, she is an excellent employee, who cracks business deals, bankruptcies, consolidation and resurrections through sale of distressed assets. She works in an investment bank, in the distressed department at Goldman Sachs. She is popular among his colleagues and bosses. She

gets a handsome salary due to her professional work ethics.

As far as her personal life is concerned Radhika's both relations were unsuccessful due to dissimilar conditions leading her to suffer at different stages. Debu was unable to accept her professional achievements and higher incomes. He feels uncomfortable to lead his future life with her. He believes women should do household chores only like child bearing and nurturing, hospitality and consolation. He wishes her to be mother-figure kind of women. He does not accept an intellectually equal as a wife. But Radhika still tries to patch up with him and all such attempts prove miserably failure. It is fully seen in the following statement of Debu:

'I am being calm, okay? But I have an image of the wife I want. The mother of the kids I want. I am not judging you, but I think I want a housewife.'

'What?' I said. My fork almost fell out of my hands.

'It's what I have seen growing up. I go to work, make the money. Wife takes care of the home. Simple needs happy family.'

"What are you talking about, Debu? Didn't you say women could achieve anything today? Didn't you encourage me when I had to apply for distressed debt?"

'I did. I still admire you. I respect all women who achieve big things. I think it is great ...'

'But you can't be with them?'

'I don't know. Maybe not. Maybe I could. But you made me think about marriage and I did. I visualized a future home. I would like my wife to be there for me and my kids.'

The main reason behind the breakup was Debu does not want a wife with brains and higher income. So he runs away from her without even considering her efforts of leaving her job and being Mrs. Debu. By which Radhika gets angry and throw her cell phone over the Brooklyn Bridge and then starts her new life in Hong Kong. In Hong Kong Radhika meets Neel, who is 20 year older and married. The conflicts in relationship arouses as she starts feeling wrong in being at that place. Further chat shows the conflicts between them:

'What do you want, Radhika?' Neel said. I kept silent.

'A future? I am twenty years older', he said.

'You said age doesn't matter in love. Didn't you?'

'I am married. I have kids. So much baggage.'

'Exactly. So what am I doing with you?'

'Aren't you happy with just what we have?' Neel said. He seemed to be genuinely confused.

'Would you be? If you were in my place?' I asked, looking him squarely in the eye.

'We have our work. We have love. We have excitement. We have friendship. We don't have the predictability and monotony of a married couple'.

'You make marriage sound so bad. You are married. The whole world gets married'.

'Clarify this for me. Do you want to get married? Or are you feeling stressed only because your mother wants you to get married soon?'

'Eventually I do want to, Neel. How could you think I won't? I want marriage, kids, family'.

'Really?'

'What do you mean, really? I do. I want Sunday IKEA trips with my husband and a whole bunch of kids. I want to wipe my kids' messy faces when I feed them. I want to bake cookies for them. Yes, yes I do'.

'Really, Radhika?' Neel said. He looked at me gob smacked, as if I had revealed my secret desire to join the ISIS.

'Yeah. Why?'

'I thought you were career-minded'.

'Excuse me? What is that supposed to mean?' I said my voice ice-cold.

After ending things with Neel, Radhika parts way from Neel and move to another city. In London she meets Brijesh through shadi.com and agrees for marriage. They plan a destination wedding in picturesque Goa where Radhika has a unique experience.

Everything was going well in the wedding; everyone was happily staying in the hotel. All of a sudden Goa's C M reaches Goa for an event. Hotel staff has to reduce their booking by which Radhika suggests to shift the guest from the grooms side by which every member of the family denies stating:

That we have to compromise then Radhika said:

"Do not use this 'girl's side and 'boy's side logic with me again. I don't like it".

In India it is expected from the people of the bride side to adjust as it is a ritual to adjust that is being

followed from centuries. Here author tries to point out the flaws of not considering the both sides equally.

In the ending of the novel radhika takes control over her life decisions. She calls Debu and Neel at the same time and tell them to leave, saying that Debu wanted her to be a housewife n didn't accept him as an independent girl while, she told Neel that he wanted her to be an independent woman but didn't wanted her to settle down and have a home of her own. None of them offered her both so she rejects there proposal and moves on. When Neel and Debu leave, Brijesh arrives and she asks him to call off the wedding, as she is not ready for such a big commitment and need a break from everything. So after calling off the wedding, she apologizes to everyone and goes on a trip for a year. To find her true self. She meets Brijesh again and helps him over his startup business.

4. CONCLUSION

The novel speaks about Radhika who is a girl who is unacceptable to the society. Her ways of living a life is intolerable as she holds opinion of her own and at its best when competing. She is a feminist. She earns more than any average boy can. She is brave woman who speaks what she believes in. she does not bother what people say about her or what opinion they have about her. Through the character radhika author describes the false traditions of our society. Women are always ben taught to be the adjusting one in every aspects of life. Through radhika he wants to convey that people need to change their perspective towards a woman. A woman who is working is not considered as she will be able to handle a home. The ideology of treating a groom family prior then a girl's family is a discrimination that needs to be changed. A girl is not supposed to have his opinion and must follow the rules that have been given by the society and any girl not following the rules is titled as shameless. Unlike boys hold no restriction regarding any opinion and any rules. There must be equality on both the sides is what Chetan Bhagat's main motive through this novel. That is the reason why Chetan Bhagat has titled the novel one Indian girl not an Indian girl, as she is not a regular girl but a different personality of her own. The novel goes through ambition, career, relations, love, heartbreak, marriage from the girl's point of view. In the end of the novel radhika proves that she is not a girl who suffers rather she is a girl who chooses her own destiny.

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